

1 **Remarks/Arguments**

2 This Request for Continued Examination is submitted in response to the Office action
3 dated January 25, 2006. The undersigned submits herewith the required fee for filing the
4 Request for Continued Examination in the amount of \$395, along with a request for a one
5 month extension of time to and including May 25, 2006 in which to respond, along with the
6 required extension fee in the amount of \$60 for a small entity.

7 Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more particularly describe the invention. Claim
8 3 has been canceled and claims 4-6 remain in the application as originally filed. The claims
9 prior to amendment were rejected over the Younger reference.

10 The undersigned submits that claims 1 and 2 as amended are patentably distinct over
11 Younger. More particularly, the Office action refers to Fig. 3H of Younger which includes a
12 resilient element 18H and a tether 31, said tether 31 being connected to a waist belt by a
13 VELCRO connector 32. The undersigned submits that the tether 31 and VELCRO fastener
14 32 are incapable of connecting the strap 18H of Younger to the waist belt in a fashion to allow
15 a rider to perform the "hands-free" stunts made possible by the present invention. The tether
16 31 of Younger is provided simply to allow the rider to retrieve the handle if the handle 18H
17 becomes separated from the rider's hand (see col. 6, lines 13-15). Claim 1 of the present
18 invention has been amended in two respects to accentuate the differences between the
19 present invention and Younger. Claim 1 has been amended to require that the "connecting
20 means" for connecting the upper end of the tension strap to the waist belt includes a "multi-
21 level buckle" through which the second end of the tension strap is threaded and wherein the
22 multi-level buckle holds the tension strap in its particular upwardly extended position. This
23 aspect of the invention is described at page 4 of the specification lines 10-25. Nothing in
24 Younger teaches or suggests the use of a multi-level buckle which allows the user to hold the
25 tension strap through the buckle to increase the tension on the strap, all for the purpose of
26 allowing the tension strap alone to hold the skateboard to the bottom of the feet of the user

1 and allowing the user to perform "hands-free" stunts.

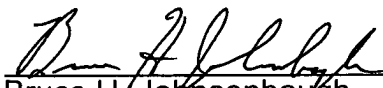
2 Secondly, claim 1 has been amended to specifically require that the tension strap
3 means resiliently and adjustably connects the waist belt to a skateboard "without requiring the
4 user to utilize his or her hand to hold the skateboard against his or her feet while performing
5 hands-free stunts." There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Younger that the tether 31
6 shown in Fig. 3H and the VELCRO connector 32 in Fig. 3H are capable of holding the
7 skateboard against the user's feet to allow the user to perform hands-free stunts. The tether
8 and VELCRO fastener are designed to simply prevent the upper end of strap 18H from
9 becoming unreachable by the user.

10 For the above reasons, the undersigned submits that claim 1 is clearly patentable over
11 Younger.

12 Claim 2 is patentable based upon the patentable subject matter of claim 1 and,
13 additionally, claim 2 further requires that the multi-level buckle includes a plurality of slidable
14 loops. Nothing in Younger teaches the use of a connector having slidable loops which allow
15 the user to adjust tension in the tension strap which holds the skateboard directly to the belt
16 of the user.

17 Claims 4-6 remaining in the application are patentable based upon the patentable
18 subject matter of claim 1. The undersigned therefore submits that claims 1 and 2 and 4-6 are
19 patentable and favorable action is requested.

20 Respectfully submitted,

21
22 By 
23 Bruce H. Johnsonbaugh
Reg. No. 24,982
Attorney for Applicant

24 ECKHOFF & HOPPE
25 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2800
26 San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: 415-391-7160
9364.103